

REMARKS

1. In response to the final Office Action mailed October 23, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-43 were last presented for examination. Claims 1-21 were rejected and claims 22-43 were previously withdrawn from consideration in the outstanding Office Action. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1, 9, 17, 19, and 21 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-43 will remain pending in this application. Of these forty-three (43) claims, seven (7) claims (claims 1, 9, 17, 19, 22, 32 and 42) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Allowable Claims

3. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 9-16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

4. Independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 9 and accordingly respectfully submits that amended claim 9 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

5. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goud in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0230785 to Ramiz, *et al.* (hereinafter, “Ramiz”). Additionally, independent claim 17 and dependent claims 18-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0243798 to Goud *et al.* (hereinafter, “Goud”). Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

6. Independent claim 1, recites in part, “storing at least some of the first configuration information received from the replaceable electronic module in a first persistent memory that is not on the replaceable electronic module....” As noted in Applicant’s prior response, Goud discloses a system 100 including blade cards 105 and 190 controlled by a blade management agent 150. (*See*, Goud, FIG. 1, paras. 12 and 13.) In the Goud system, the BIOS is bifurcated into a boot block portion 110 and a main BIOS portion 160. (*See*, Goud, FIG. 1, paras. 14-17.) The boot block BIOS portion 110 is installed on the blade card 10 while the main BIOS portion 160 is stored remotely and selected by the blade management agent 150 for execution when the blade card 105 is next booted. (*See*, Goud, paras. 14-17.) Thus, the information stored in the BIOS portion 160 of Goud is not “received from [a] replacement electronic module....”

7. As such, Applicant respectfully submits Goud fails to teach or suggest “storing at least some of the first configuration information received from the replaceable electronic module in a first persistent memory that is not on the replaceable electronic module,” as recited by claim 1. Applicant further respectfully submits that Ramiz does not cure, nor has the Examiner alleged that it cures, the above noted defect of Goud. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection to claim 1 for at least these reasons.

8. Applicant further respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references for at least the following additional reason. Claim 1 recites, in part, “module first configuration information identifying capabilities of the replaceable electronic module to utilize permitted portions of its hardware or to execute permitted software....” In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner recognized that Goud fails to teach this limitation of claim

1, and instead, the Examiner relied on Ramiz. Ramiz and the present application were, at the time the present invention was made, both owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to Hewlett Packard Company. As such, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(1), Ramiz does not qualify as a reference against the present invention. Applicant accordingly respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection to claim 1 for at least this additional reason.

9. Claim 17, as amended, recites, in part, “storing configuration information in a persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module, wherein the configuration information specifies that a capability of the replaceable electronic module is not enabled; modifying the configuration information stored in the persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module to enable the previously unenabled capability of the replacement electronic module....” Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the below reasons, amended claim 17 is allowable over Goud.

10. As noted above, Goud discloses a bifurcated BIOS that includes a boot block portion 110 and a main BIOS portion 160. (*See*, Goud, FIG. 1, paras. 14-17.) Goud further discloses that the boot block portion and main BIOS portion may provide functionality different from that found in a traditional unified BIOS. (*See*, Goud, para 17.) Goud, however, does not teach or suggest “storing configuration information in a persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module, wherein the configuration information specifies that a capability of the replaceable electronic module is not enabled.” Goud further does not teach or suggest “modifying the configuration information stored in the persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module to enable the previously unenabled capability of the replacement electronic module.” Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 17 for at least these reasons.

11. Applicant also notes that in the Office Action the Examiner stated “Goud expressly states in paragraph 17, the preboot BIO block and boot block BIOS and main BIOS provide functionality greater than or radically different [than] that what was originally intended, e.g., utilizing/permitting parts of the hardware not originally in the boot BIOS.” Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion. Particularly, paragraph 17 of Goud states “the boot block BIOS portion and main BIOS portion may provide functionality, for example, greater than, less than, or possibly, radically different than the traditional unified

BIOS.” (*See*, Goud, para. 17.) Goud, however, does not state that these different BIOSs may be used to utilize or permit operation of parts of the hardware not originally in the boot BIOS. Rather, this section merely states that the BIOS used in the system of Goud may be different (even radically different) from the traditionally used unified BIOS. As such, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner’s assertion that Goud discloses a BIOS system that may be used to utilize/permit parts of the hardware of a blade card 105 of Goud to be used that were not originally permitted to be used.

12. Claim 19, as amended, recites, in part, “storing configuration information in a persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module, wherein the stored configuration information corresponds to an initial function assigned to the replaceable electronic module; detecting when the replaceable electronic module is assigned a different function.” Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the below reasons, amended claim 19 is allowable over Goud

13. In rejecting claim 19, the Examiner relied on block 220 of Fig. 2 of Goud for allegedly disclosing “detecting when the replacement module is assigned a function,” previously recited by original claim 19. This step simply discloses that the system of Goud determines whether the blade management agent 150 is accessible or not. (*See*, Goud, para. 24). If the blade management agent 150 is accessible, the main BIOS 160 is retrieved from the blade management agent, and if not, the main BIOS 160 is retrieved from some other location, such as firmware local to the blade card 105. (*See*, Goud, paras. 24-25.) Thus, block 220 of FIG. 2 merely discloses a single step of a process performed by the system of Goud. Goud, however, does not disclose assigning an initial function to the blade card 105 and then assigning a different function to the blade card 105. Applicant therefore, respectfully submits that Goud does not teach each and every element of amended claim 19. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection to claim 19.

Dependent Claims

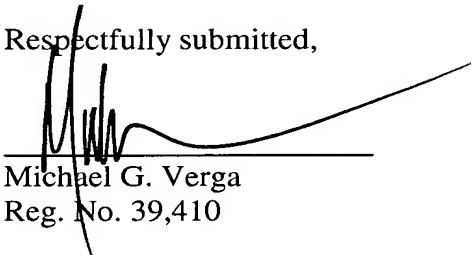
14. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

15. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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January 11, 2007